

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAM-01 OMB-01 IO-10 AID-05 SR-02 ORM-01 /086 W

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R 280915Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6829

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

USMISSION NEW YORK

AMCONSUL MEDAN

AMCONSUL SURABAYA

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 2555

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR ID PO PT

SUBJ: GOI AGAIN DENIES PORTUGUESE TIMOR TAKEOVER PLANS BUT
PROPAGANDA RE COMMUNIST THREAT CONTINUES

REF: A) JAKARTA 2285 B) JAKARTA 2390 C) SURABAYA 149 D) JAKARTA 2484

SUMMARY: DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE SPOKESMAN AIR MARSHAL
SUDARMONO HAS REITERATED EARLIER GOI DENIALS THAT
INDONESIA INTENDS TO AUGMENT MILITARY FORCES IN TIMOR
REGION IN CONNECTION WITH POLITICAL SITUATION IN
PORTUGUESE TIMOR, OR THAT INDONESIA HAS "TERRITORIAL
AMBITIONS" THERE. HE SAID FUTURE OF COLONY WILL BE
DETERMINED BY REFERENDUM IN SIX MONTHS. AT
SAME TIME, HOWEVER, GOVERNMENT-INSPIRED PRESS REPORTS
AND STATEMENT BY PARLIAMENT FOREIGN AFFAIRS SPOKESMAN
CONTINUE TO STRESS GROWING THREAT OF COMMUNIST SEIZURE
OF PORTUGUESE TIMOR AND DANGER TO INDONESIA. GOI THUS
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CONTINUES TO ISSUE DENIALS OF AGGRESSIVE INTENT WHILE

KEEPING PROPAGANDA FIRES BURNING IN ORDER TO JUSTIFY
POSSIBLE ACTION "IN SELF DEFENSE." FOLLOWING BASED ON
PRESS REPORTS. END SUMMARY.

1. IN RESPONSE TO PRESS QUERIES FEBRUARY 27, AIR
MARSHAL SUDARMONO, CHIEF OF STAFF, DEPARTMENT OF
DEFENSE, CONFIRMED RECENT STATEMENT BY TERRITORIAL
COMMANDER FOR JAVA AND NUSATENGARA LT. GEN. WIDODO
THAT THERE IS NO MILITARY BUILDUP IN TIMOR REGION
(REF D). HE ALSO REFERRED TO EARLIER DENIALS BY
FONMIN MALIK AND STATE SECRETARY SUDHARMONO
DISCLAIMING ANY INDONESIAN "TERRITORIAL AMBITIONS" FOR
PORTUGUESE TIMOR.

2. AIRM MARSHAL SUDARMONO ALSO SAID
CONSTRUCTION OF ROAD LINKING INDONESIA TIMOR CAPITAL
OF KUPANG AND ATAMBUA ON PORTUGUESE TIMOR BORDER
(REF D) HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH PORTUGUESE TIMOR. HE
SAID POLITICAL FUTURE OF COLONLY WOULD BE DETERMINED BY
REFERENDUM TO BE HELD IN SIX MONTHS AND THAT ROAD
CONSTRUCTION WOULD TAKE THREE YEARS. ON SAME DAY,
MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS SUTAMI TOLD PRESS THAT REPAIR
AND CONSTRUCTION WORK ON THIS 314 KILOMETER STRETCH OF
ROAD WAS AN OLD PROJECT ON WHICH WORK BEGAN AT SEVERAL
POINTS LAST YEAR. SUTAMI ALSO STRESSED PROJECT HAD
NO CONNECTION WITH DEVELOPMENTS IN PORTUGUESE TIMOR.

3. MEANWHILE, MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT'S COMMISSION OF
DEFENSE AND FOREIGN RELATIONS, HAJI CHALID MAWARDI,
SAID FOREIGN PRESS REPORTS THAT GOI WAS PREPARING
MILITARY INVASION OF PORTUGUESE TIMOR WERE "POLITICAL
SUBVERSION," DESIGNED TO DISCREDIT INDONESIA.
HOWEVER, MAWARDI EXPRESSED "CONCERN" OVER REPORTS OF
POLITICAL PERSECUTION IN PORTUGUESE TIMOR AND ATTEMPTS
BY ANTI-INDONESIA FORCES TO IMPOSE COMMUNIST DOMINATION
ON THE AREA. HE URGED GOVERNMENT TO PAY FULL ATTENTION
TO THESE DEVELOPMENTS WHICH WOULD HAVE "DEFINITE
INFLUENCE ON POLITICAL STABILITY IN INDONESIA" IF THEY
CONTINUE. MAWARDI'S STATEMENT ALMOST CERTAINLY
GOVERNMENT-INSPIRED.

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4. EARLIER, HIGHLY-COLORED ANTARA REPORTS OF IMMINENT
COMMUNIST POWER GRAB IN PORTUGUESE TIMOR (REFS A AND D)
WERE REPLAYED IN WEEKLY TABLOID NEW STANDARD'S WEEKEND
EDITION TOGETHER WITH PICTURES OF "REFUGEES" AND
GRAFFITI ON BUILDING IN DILI BRANDING PRO-MERGER
INDONESIA APODETI PARTY AS "TRAITOR." NEW STANDARD
REPORT SAID "FINISHING TOUCHES" ARE NOW BEING MADE FOR

FORMATION OF NEW PARTY, "NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE ASSOCIATION," BY COMMUNIST ARMY OFFICERS WHO ARE MEMBERS OF PORTUGUESE "MOVIMENTO FORCAS ARMAD" AND LEFTIST FRETILIN. LISBON FULLY SUPPORTS FORMATION OF THIS NEW PARTY, NEW STANDARD SAID, AND "POWER TAKEOVER" IS "ONLY A MATTER OF TIME."

5. COMMENTS: THIS COMBINATION OF OFFICIAL DENIALS OF INTENT TO SEIZE PORTUGUESE TIMOR AND GOVERNMENT-INSPIRED PROPAGANDA PORTRAYING IMMINENT COMMUNIST THREAT THAT WOULD JUSTIFY TAKEOVER IN "SELF DEFENSE" IS CONTINUATION OF GOI PUBLIC POSTURE ON TIMOR ADOPTED EARLY THIS WEEK (SEE REFTELS).
NEWSOM

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INTERVENTION, PRESS COMMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MartinML
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975JAKART02555
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750072-0771
From: JAKARTA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975024/aaaaacqe.tel
Line Count: 129
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 JAKARTA 2285, 75 JAKARTA 2390, 75 SURABAYA 149, 75 JAKARTA 2484
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MartinML
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <11 JUN 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <12 NOV 2003 by MartinML>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOI AGAIN DENIES PORTUGUESE TIMOR TAKEOVER PLANS BUT PROPAGANDA RE COMMUNIST THREAT CONTINUES
TAGS: PFOR, ID, PO, PT, (SUDARMONO), (MALIK, FOMAN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006